

I am writing to formally oppose **HB -7150 (TEACHER PENSION SHARING proposal)**. This will further increase costs and taxes to those in Weston and other non-distressed towns further giving reasons for families to NOT move here or give them another reason to leave. In either case this will reduce the monies going to Hartford to address the financial crisis.

This Bill addresses the 25% state teacher pension cost sharing and additional cost sharing for teacher salaries above the state median at a one to one ratio. Not only is this a calculated shifting of pension obligations from where they should be at the state level to the municipal level, it directs this liability to non-urban communities with sound budgets.

While Lamont inherited this, many in Hartford did not and in fact are part of the reason we are in this position at all. The history here is that Hartford negotiated a contract without a plan to fund it and where municipalities had no influence. It was a poor decision to negotiate pension separately from wages and other benefits. Municipalities in the state should not be forced to fund a mismanaged (failing to adequately fund) plan that Hartford has kicked the can down the road for decades. If Weston is going to be forced to pay, our elected representatives MUST have a say in the negotiations. They currently do not.

In addition, the surcharge for teacher salaries about the state median level is a disgrace to even consider. The plan does not account for higher costs of living in areas such as Fairfield County, or the impact of binding arbitration, two factors beyond local control that strongly influence salary agreements.

I strongly urge you to **VOTE NO** for **HB 7150**.

Sincerely,
Kristana Esslinger
Weston, CT